

What is claimed is:

1 1. A method replaying a portion of a communication, comprising the
2 steps of:

3 establishing a connection between first and second end nodes;
4 receiving, at a buffering module in the connection remote from the first
5 and second end nodes, a communications signal sent from the second end node to the first
6 end node;

7 maintaining in a memory a segment of the communications signal that was
8 transmitted through the buffering module immediately previous to present time;

9 receiving at the buffering module a request to retransmit at least a portion
10 of the segment of the signal; and

11 retransmitting from the buffering module to the first end node the portion
12 of the segment.

1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein at least a portion of the connection
2 is a PSTN, and wherein the step of establishing a connection includes establishing a
3 circuit-switched path.

1 3. The method of claim 2, wherein the request to retransmit is a
2 touch-tone sequence.

1 4. The method of claim 1, wherein the request to retransmit is an in-
2 band signal.

1 5. The method of claim 2, wherein the request to retransmit is an out-
2 of-band signal.

1 6. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of receiving at
2 the buffering module a request to begin maintaining in a memory a segment of the signal.

1 7. The method of claim 1, wherein at least a portion of the connection
2 is a packet switched network.

1 8. The method of claim 7, wherein the step of establishing a
2 connection comprises establishing a TCP/IP connection.

1 9. The method of claim 1, wherein the communications signal is a
2 voice signal, and the segment of the signal is a time segment of the voice signal.

1 10. The method of claim 1, wherein the connection includes a wireless
2 signal between the first node and the buffering module.

1 11. The method of claim 1, wherein the connection includes an
2 unreliable portion between the first node and the buffering module.

1 12. The method of claim 1, wherein the first node is a handheld device
2 selected from a group consisting of a premises telephone station set, a wireless telephone
3 handset and a PDA.

1 13. The method of claim 1, wherein the connection includes an audio
2 bridge, and wherein the step of maintaining in memory a segment of the signal comprises

3 maintaining in memory a segment of a signal sent by the audio bridge to listening station
4 sets.

1 14. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of, after
2 retransmitting the portion of the segment, transmitting the signal to the first end node
3 beginning at a point immediately subsequent to the portion of the segment.

1 15. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of, after
2 retransmitting the portion of the segment, transmitting the signal to the first end node
3 beginning at a point in the signal received from the second node at present time.

1 16. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of storing a
2 record of the retransmitting step in a message record accumulator.

1 17. The method of claim 1, wherein the request to retransmit received
2 at the buffering module is automatically generated.

1 18. The method of claim 17, wherein the request is generated upon
2 detection of corrupted data.

1 19. The method of claim 17, wherein the request is generated at the
2 first node.

1 20. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of receiving a
2 communications signal further includes receiving a communications signal sent from the
3 first end node to the second end node.

1 21. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of transmitting
2 from the buffering module to a memory the portion of the segment.

1 22. A method for retransmitting a portion of a communication signal to
2 an end node in a network having an unreliable link, comprising the steps of:

3 buffering, at a location in the network on a side of the unreliable link
4 opposite the end node, a segment of the communication transmitted immediately previous
5 to present time;

6 receiving, at said location, a request to retransmit at least a portion of the
7 communication segment; and

8 retransmitting the portion of the segment across the unreliable link to the
9 end node.

1 23. The method of claim 22, wherein the unreliable link is a wireless
2 signal.

1 24. The method of claim 22, wherein the request to retransmit is a
2 touch-tone sequence.

1 25. The method of claim 22, wherein the first node is a handheld
2 device selected from a group consisting of a wireless telephone handset and a PDA.

1 26. The method of claim 22, further comprising the step of storing a
2 record of the retransmitting step in a message record accumulator.

1 27. The method of claim 22, wherein the request to retransmit received
2 at the buffering module is automatically generated.

1 28. The method of claim 27, wherein the request is generated upon
2 detection of corrupted data.

1 29. The method of claim 27, wherein the request is generated at the
2 first node.